Use of land near Hyderabad Airport by AAI

*616. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether space is available near Hyderabad Airport which is under the control of the Airports Authority of India;

(b) if so, the extent of land available;

(c) whether steps will be taken to use this land properly;

(d) whether it is a fact that pilgrims and others do not have lodging facility available near the Hyderabad Airport at reasonable rates; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the AAI to tackle this problem?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) No, Sir. No vacant land is available at Hyderabad airport which could be leased out for construction of lodging facility for pilgrims and others. The matter of getting the encroachments cleared has been taken up with the State Government at the highest levels. A five star hotel in the name of "Ramada Inn" under private sector has been constructed on AAI land. There are many other lodging facilities available at reasonable rates in the vicinity of Hyderabad airport.

Enhancement of Import Duty on Methanol

*617. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that six methanol producing indigenous petrochemicals industries are facing serious troubles because of invasion of their market by cheap imported methanol from outside the country;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to protect these industries; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to increase the price of imported methanol through the enhancement of import duty on foreign methanol?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) The performance of domestic methanol industry and import figures do not reflect so.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) At present there is no proposal to enhance import duty on methanol.

Public Telephones in the NER

*618. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed and actual achievements made during the last three years, year-wise in respect of public telephones installed in the rural and urban areas of the North-Eastern Region with special reference to Assam; and

(b) the reasons for difference in achievements and the targets?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) The target and achievement in respect of Public Telephones in rural and urban areas in North-Eastern Region including Assam during the last three years are as under:—

Year		Assam		North-East (excluding Assam)	
		Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
1997-98	Rural	4000	2484	1000	474
	Urban	2000	787	1200	691
1998-99	Rural	2400	2907	1000	404
	Urban	2000	980	1000	830
1999-2000	Rural	3000	826	2000	303
	Urban	1100	1885	600	819

The reasons for shortfall are as under:—

Public Telephones installed in Rural Areas

— non-availability of suitable technology as MARR technology did not prove to be very reliable;